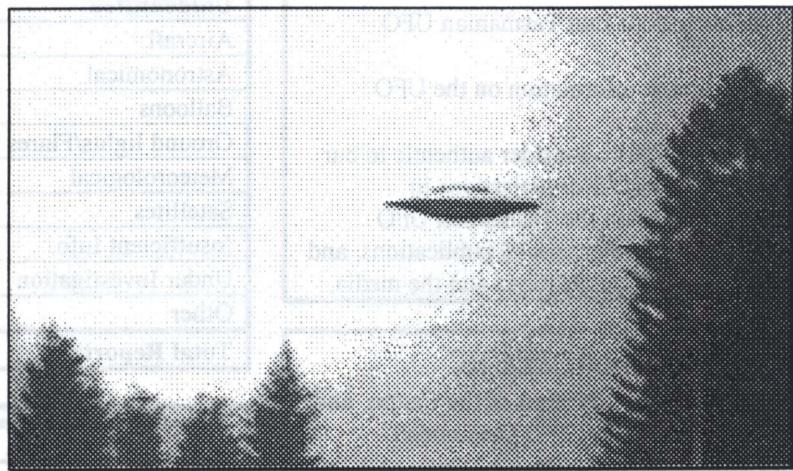


TUFOIC

Tasmanian UFO Report 1998



Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre

TASMANIAN UFO REPORT - 1998

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TUFOIC EXECUTIVE 1998

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MEETINGS

Meetings are generally held quarterly in Hobart.

Meeting Dates for 1998: To be Advised.

*Contact TUFOIC for information on meeting dates.
Members are mailed meeting notices advising of date,
Time and agenda of each meeting.*

**TUFOIC meetings are open to members and friends,
and to the general public.**

THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF TUFOIC:

- To conduct investigations into Tasmanian UFO reports.
- To collect and examine information on the UFO phenomena.
- To distribute that which we consider authentic to our members and to fellow UFO organisations in Australia, and overseas via the Tasmanian UFO report, Newsletters and other special publications, and to the general public via publications and the media.

MEMBERSHIP OF TUFOIC

- Is open to all who support the aims of the Centre, and have a serious interest in the UFO phenomena.
- Further information and a sample Newsletter may be obtained upon request by writing to the Membership secretary, Email or by attending meetings.

TASMANIAN STATISTICS

YEAR	REPORTS	UFOs
Pre 1965	132	31
1965	24	13
1966	34	15
1967	17	5
1968	31	8
1969	63	15
1970	45	8
1971	94	23
1972	69	15
1973	134	26
1974	160	57
1975	171	50
1976	192	43
1977	156	39
1978	178	32
1979	152	19
1980	63	11
1981	88	11
1982	62	18
1983	69	13
1984	45	8
1985	89	11
1986	85	13
1987	73	12
1988	108	19
1989	92	11
1990	44	6
1991	47	5
1992	77	14
1993	86	6
1994	92	10
1995	95	16
1996	177	46

1997 STATISTICS

Type	Number
Unidentified	9
Aircraft	10
Astronomical	39
Balloons	2
Ground lights/Flares	15
Meteorological	2
Satellites	13
Insufficient Info.	11
Under Investigation	1
Other	6
Total Reports	108

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TUFOIC was Founded in 1965

1997 In Review

The year 1997 has seen media, Internet, and printed coverage of the UFO phenomena at an all time high, maybe to saturation point. Lines of books are available in the bookshops, differing styles and theories presented by the authors from publications placed side by side. Glossy magazines with abductions tales, hidden bases, aliens from space, pages of photographs. Logon to the Internet and even more information of varying quality and reliability is presented to the user, so much information in fact that there is too much to digest. However, with no coverage of world wide UFO sightings in the local press the Internet does provide a flow of current UFO sightings, although a number of the cases would appear to have mundane explanations. Having said that, it is a decided plus to know what is going on almost as it happens.

On the minus side is the retirement from the UFO field of Keith Basterfield one of Australia's most reliable investigators and publisher of UFO data.

His monthly summary of Australian sightings will be a great loss. We have printed a brief list of the 1997 Australian sightings to try and make up for the shortcoming.

After the boom sightings year in 1996 it was a bit like the Stock Market, there was no where else to go but down! Incoming calls to the Centre were evenly spread through out the year with a flurry of calls in January-February, and June-July. Unexplained cases tended to be distant lights in most cases and were well spread across the state with no flap location as in 1996.

Membership despite the fall in reports and lack of meetings has remained stable. A big loss was the use of the Glenorchy Library as a meeting location. The Centre was not in a position to meet new liability clauses required by the Library. Meetings were transferred to the Moonah Community Centre.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL: UFO EVIDENCE BEARS INVESTIGATION

There may be more to UFO evidence than just verbal reports of what people see in the sky. Some UFO evidence may be worthy of scientific investigation. This is the tentative conclusion of a panel of scientists convened by the Society for Scientific Exploration to examine this matter.

The panel of nine scientists met at a conference center near New York from September 29 to October 3, 1997.

The panel reviewed evidence presented by eight UFO investigators, and will issue a report within a few months that summarises the workshop activities and makes recommendations for further research. Panellists were drawn from France, Germany, and the United States. Investigators came from France, Germany, Norway, and the United States.

The strong representation from France is due to the fact that France is the only country that has an unclassified ongoing official investigation into UFO reports. This program, headquartered at the French Space Agency (CNES) in Toulouse, is headed by Jean-Jacques Velasco, a participant in the workshop.

Velasco described damage to soil and vegetation associated with a strange object that was seen to land at a farm in Trans-en-Provence in France, departing within about one minute. This evidence has been analysed by scientists in France on behalf of CNES.

Other evidence presented and critically reviewed at the workshop included photographs, video records, spectroscopic data. Radar records, reports of malfunctions of automobile and aircraft equipment, material specimens, and radiation-type injuries To witnesses.

"We made no effort to solve the UFO problem," said Von Eshleman of Stanford University and Thomas Holzer of the High Altitude Observatory, co-chairs of the review panel. "We had a far more modest goal, We were here only to inform ourselves about claimed evidence, and to try to decide if further scientific study of such evidence is likely to significantly advance the resolution of the UFO problem."

The "UFO problem" was defined by Peter Sturrock of Stanford University, director of the workshop, as the problem of understanding the cause or causes of UFO reports.

"Honest people report strange observations. Not all reports have obvious explanations. So what are the not-so-obvious explanations? I would like to see scientists play a more active role in helping to unravel this 50-year-old mystery. I see the workshop as a small step in this direction."

Other members of the panel were Randy Jokipii of the University of Arizona, Francois Louange from France, Jay Melosh of the University of Arizona, James Papike of the University of Yew Mexico, Guenther Reitz from Germany, Charles Tolbert from the University of Virginia, and Bernard Veyret from France.

In addition to Velasco, the panel received presentations from Richard Haines of Los Altos, California; Illobrand von Ludwiger of Germany; Mark Rodeghier of Chicago; John Schuessler of Houston; Erling Strand of Norway; Michael Swords of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Jacques Vallee of San Francisco.

Tasmanian Sightings

14 January 1997. Examiner for 17 January 1997.

SIX REPORT SEEING UFO OVER CITY

by Jane Waller.

The National UFO Hotline has received several reports about an unidentified flying object hovering over Launceston early on Tuesday morning. Hotline operator Ross Dowe said yesterday that he had talked to six people from Launceston who had seen the object between 1.15am and 2.30am. Mr Dowe said that all had given a similar description of the object which has been reported as having three flashing lights. He said that all the callers bar one had also commented on the loud noise made by the object.

Clare Fisher of Invermay, said that she had been woken by a noise around 1am and at first had thought it was a truck idling outside her unit. She investigated, and while she did not see any lights she also found there was no truck outside her home, though the noise persisted for 15 to 20 minutes.

Maggie Ross was also woken by a loud noise around 2.30am in Charles St. She said she had gone to the window and seen three bright lights. "They were huge and the middle one was flashing." She said. "After a few minutes it disappeared down the river but I could hear the roaring noise for another 20 minutes or so."

Heather Whybrow, of South Launceston, was another woken by a weird noise. She saw the object move slowly across the northern part of the city for about 15 minutes before disappearing.

Investigation by Northern Rep: Jacob Willard failed to uncover any known aircraft in the area. The UFO was described as being a round metallic looking object with a number of lights. The blue, orange, and red lights were flashing in sequence from left to right as the object only moved very slowly in the northern sky. After some 15 minutes it suddenly streaked off to the North.

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7 February 1997. Westbury.

MYSTERY CIGAR RETURNS?

A sighting with similarities to the Northern Flap of May/June 1996 occurred about 9am on February 7th at Westbury. Investigator Jacob Willard interviewed the witnesses later that day. The object was first seen by C from the bathroom window, calling to his older sister they then went out into the garden for a better view. A white cigar with some grey below was visible in the clear blue southern sky, it was moving slowly from west to east. Young C ran off to find some binoculars. His sister continued to watch as it suddenly changed to a vertical position.

It then made an instant increase in speed descending straight down and being lost from view behind nearby buildings. The object made no noise and left no vapour trail. The sighting lasted 3 to 4 minutes in excellent viewing conditions.

A number of cases from the West Tamar and Launceston area in 1996 also involved a white cigar to pencil like shape, all the sightings occurring on days with clear blue skies. In some cases the object was seen in a vertical position, whilst its disappearance at times seemed to be instantaneous.

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28 April 1997. Lyell Highway.

LIGHTS UPSET MOTORIST

A motorist and his passenger returning to the West Coast encountered some unexplained lights on the high half way between Gretna and Hamilton in the Derwent Valley. About 7.50pm they noticed a red light with a whitish glow about in the northern sky, the light seemed to be moving about a bit. Then the light came down sharply at a 45 degree angle, it now looked to have red and green pulsating lights which were moving around. The passenger had the impression there was a dome shaped area above the lights. The lights were now to their right and looked to be some 20m above the trees. The driver of the car slowed right down, opening his window for a better view. The presence of the lights made the witnesses a bit scared so they drove off stopping further down the road. The lights were last seen going down behind the trees and were no longer visible.

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24 June 1997. Lachlan

LIGHT PHENOMENA AT GROUND LEVEL

A second report came to the Centre's attention following publicity on the burn-up over Bass Strait on June 24th. Mrs B of Lachlan was home alone at 7.30pm on the evening of June 24th. She was in the kitchen and noticed a bright light source on the kitchen blinds. Looking out she was puzzled by a large circle of light seemingly at ground level some 200/300m to the east of the house. The light circle was in a paddock at a higher elevation above the house. Mrs B could see the fence posts in front of the light which placed it in front of the trees at the other end of the paddock.

She went outside for a better view but could not see any marks on the circle or hear any sound. The bright white light did not seem to reflect onto any of the nearby trees. She looked out soon after but the light had disappeared. A search of the area failed to locate any marks or explanation for the source of the light.

23 June 1997. West Coast

FISHERMAN SIGHT LIGHTS

Point Hibbs on Tasmania's West Coast is a very lonely spot frequented only by fishermen and the odd bushwalker. J and his father had anchored for the night close in the shelter of Bird Island, a small island just south of Point Hibbs. J was on deck when he first spotted a group of three lights out to the west at about a 20 degree elevation. The top light was red with two green lights below. Around the lights was a glowing area of light. Altogether the lights covered an area of about a 3/4 moon. J called his father up to see the lights which were watched off and on by the witnesses for the next couple of hours.

The lights lost elevation during the period they were under observation and moved more to the north. At various times erratic movement was noted by J. The lights looked to move sideways, then performed a large anti-clockwise circle a number of times. Whilst moving on one circle the lights suddenly shot across from the one o'clock position to the 7 o'clock position.

Eventually the lights were low on the horizon, they moved down behind the hump on the island then back up again on a number of occasions before being finally lost from sight.

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10th September 1997

SOMETHING IN HUON SKY

It was school holidays and P of Port Huon had her friend over for the night. They were sleeping that night in the lounge room but having a talk first whilst lying down. It was about 10.30pm that P noticed a big light, large enough to have a boomerang type shape to it. The boomerang was multi coloured, being at various times, blue, yellow, green, and red. P and her friend were both amazed and scared, especially when P's friend pointed out a similar boomerang light close by in the sky. The first light let off a trail of sparks from the left side, they went downwards but faded out. The lights made sudden movements, moving around in an anti-clockwise movement, going up to the left and right, then dropping down again. The two friends watched the lights for some time before picking up courage to race through to call P's mother to come and have a "look".

P's mother reported the girls were excited and wide eyed. She went to the lounge at once but there was no sign of the boomerang lights.

22ND September 1997

BRONTE LIGHTS

A fisherman and his friend saw an array of lights from Bronte Lagoon just after midnight on September 22nd. The fisherman who has been visiting the area for 15 years had never seen anything like it before. There were 4 large lights in an arrow head formation low in the eastern sky. The lights were red, white, green, and yellow in colour. A brilliant red light was at the top of the four lights. The lights slowly changed formation into a vertical line of lights, than soon after they reverted to the arrow formation. As it was so late the witnesses observed the lights for some 15 minutes before retiring for the night. The witness had observed the sky on previous and subsequent nights but saw nothing to account for the sighting.

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15TH November 1997

MORE LIGHTS IN THE HUON

It was late on a fine Saturday night that M and her friend saw something puzzling from a house near Glen Huon. M was inside watching TV when a bright flash at the window caught her attention. She and her friend on looking out could see just above the hills to the north a large circle of light two or three times the size of the moon. In a matter of seconds the light shrank down to almost nothing then swelled back up to its original size. In a few more seconds it had once more grown to its original size before just appearing to vanish in front of the witnesses eyes.

Again within a few more seconds a line of white lights just appeared across the top of the hill to the north of the Huon River. M said it was hard to place the exact location of the lights, they seemed to be visible through trees atop the hill and in fact may have been over the valley beyond. The lights had a bit of a flicker maybe due to the intervening bush. Both witnesses agreed there were a lot of lights and they were in horizontal line, maybe a hundred or more? At this time they noticed two cars had stopped on the North Huon Road across the valley. they assumed the occupants had also seen something.

After about 3 to 4 minutes the lights just went out, almost as if they had all been turned off at the same time. Soon after, a beam of light was seen on a clearing on the hill, this it was later ascertained was the owner of the land who had noticed a bright glow over the hill and had gone to "look about". M also visited the hillside some days later but could find nothing to account for the lights. The owner advised her that no one else had been up there that night as the access road is locked.

LIGHT ZIGZAGS OVER PERTH

The final report for the year returned the Centre back north where it had all started in January. Mrs S of Perth had returned home and was standing outside at 10.50pm admiring the stars and moon in the clear sky. A sound not unlike a plane caught her attention and almost at once she noticed a number of lights high in

the south western sky. As the lights approached, the white lights went out and only a large orange light could be seen heading towards the north. The most puzzling aspect of the sighting then occurred when the light commenced a zigzag movement as it continued northwards. The light performed some 6-8 zigzag moves. The light had been in view for some 3 minutes when Mrs S went inside, she was only away for a minute but on coming outside again she could not relocate the lights.

Floaters

It's over 40 years now that I have been reading about or investigating the UFO phenomena, am I any the wiser, I'm not really sure. On looking back the UFOs of the 1950 era look so simple, daylight discs, glowing cigar mother-ships, what else could they be but 'Flying Saucers' from outer space?

I suppose it was only a matter of time that we progressed to occupants from the UFO being reported, although the aliens quite often turned out to be blonde long haired Venusians or the like. As the kidnapping turned to abductions so the occupants became standardised as the little greys. I often wonder if the power of the media has coloured our perception of what an alien should look like. Some areas of South America featured sightings of bellicose hairy dwarfs, maybe if they had appeared in the good old US of A they may have via the media become the accepted norm for UFO occupants. Whilst UFO sightings continue throughout the world the unexplained events seemed to have been swamped by a host of abduction cases, crashed saucers and conspiracies. So much more has been added in over the years, crop circles, poltergeist connections, animal mutilations, ancient astronauts, pyramids, Atlantes, just to name a few. Oh, for the simple discs of the 1950s!

After investigating sightings for the Centre over many years I realise that discovering that a local event is unexplained is not going to uncover an answer. However, having said that, the collection of data over the world has demonstrated that an unexplained phenomena exists, The obvious difficulty is uncovering the source for the phenomena. Would you chase endless cars along highways at night time, rather like the farm sheep dog chases all the cars that come by, he never seems to find out what they are. Landings that suggest that something is looking over the area, or beams of light searching the ground for reasons unknown. Abductions that appear to be growing out of control, bedroom invasions where the abductee is just whisked off to some-place, do the occupants even need a 'space craft' for this operation. A question that I never seem to see asked but should be of paramount importance, where do the UFOs and their occupants go to? So often during a flap a series of reports of similar objects occurs over several weeks, it appears at night, then seemingly goes into thin air until it re-appears some evenings later.

So many events across such a wide range of countries and cultures. Almost always the same response from Governments or scientific circles, Maybe because explanations as to the phenomena's source have come from dubious sources, fringe cults, and some just out for a few dollars. One example is the theory that the UFO-nauts are from the Pleiades constellation and obviously are called Pleidians. The Pleiades as seen from earth is a group of stars, but should you be able to travel there you would find no Pledians. The stars are in fact separated by many millions of lights years and are not actually grouped together, in fact with the passage of time the constellation patterns as seen from earth will change and the Pledians disappear. It's rather like saying that the Chinese originate in such disparate places as Hong Kong, Cairo, Shetland Islands, and Barbados!

It seems that the real answer to the UFO phenomena may never be found. Despite numerous books and TV shows that present UFO data as if they are proved fact no one solution has stood the test. I some times wonder what I will do if the answer is uncovered, there will be a lot of unemployed UFO officers. Does the average man in the street care about UFOs, probably no, only when it starts to affect the hip pocket nerve, then we may see some action.

I guess many of us like a good old mystery, the Loch Ness monster, Abominable Snowmen, and UFOs. Its sometimes nice to know that we do not know the answers to everything, although maybe we should try and find out just what the UFO phenomena is all about.

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Check out our home page: <http://www.netspace.net.au/~tufoic>

International UFO Scene

UFO FLAP SWINGS INTO HIGH GEAR IN CHILE

January 1998 was a big month for UFO sightings in Chile.

On January 4, 1998, Pablo Marinan and his family spied a UFO over their hometown of Angol, located 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Santiago de Chile, the national capital.

"The object was 55 degrees above the horizon and southeast of us," Pablo reported. "The UFO was oval in shape, a very bright light with a dark structure around it. The object was vibrating. At arm's length, it was about two centimeters (one inch) long."

On January 17, 1998, at 9:19 p.m., Rodrigo Bravo saw "a very bright white/gold light come from the south at high speed. It stopped in mid-air over Santiago (above the Corrillos section) for about ten seconds, then it shot back to the south from where it came."

On January 24, 1998, Sergio Rojas and four friends drove out to Tranque Alfalfal dam in El Cajon del Maipo about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Santiago. On their way up the mountain to the dam, "they saw two balls of light pass over them at a very high speed. After a few seconds, they saw a third one, but it was traveling much slower."

Arriving at the dam, Sergio and his friends left the car and walked to the cliff's edge. "From here they could see the Rio Maipo 100 meters (330 feet) below. Then they saw a cigar/egg-shaped UFO about 18 meters (60 feet) long coming up the river. It was a bright white color. They heard a very

high-pitched tone that clogged their ears for a while."

As the UFO flew by, the group found themselves covered by "a strange mist, hot and cold at the same time." They hurried back to the car and drove down the mountain.

"On their way to San Jose de Maipo, they encountered a UFO that was hovering about 800 meters (2,640 feet) from them. They stopped the car and got out. The UFO looked like the moon but was slightly smaller and was white-colored. After five minutes of observation, the UFO faded away like a cloud or smoke." (Muchas gracias a Luis Sanchez Perry para esas informaciones.)

*Credit UFO ROUNDUP Vol3 No7. 15th Feb 1998.
Editor..Joseph Trainor.*

STRANGE TUBE-SHAPED UFO APPEARS IN LEANDER, TEXAS

On Saturday, January 24, 1998, at 3:20 p.m., D.B. Michael was at his home in Leander, Texas (population 3,398) when he received a phone call from his brother, Dave, asking him to hurry outside, "You've got to see this!" Leander is on Highway 183 about 23 miles north of Austin, the state capital.

"He and (D.B.'s son) Daniel were in their backyard, which joins mine." Hurrying outside, D.B. "observed the object moving in a northerly direction," describing the UFO as "a cylinder object that was positioned upright, not oblong."

The men shot several photos of the UFO with their two 35mm cameras while "the object stayed

vertical without any rotation." "We followed it on U.S. Highway 183 heading off at (county highway) 2243 East. We then travelled on 2243 East and pulled off the road. It passed over us...We then commenced east again intending to go to Interstate (Highway) 35 and intercept it again." Just then, "a dark helicopter was observed flying for the south at an altitude of about 500 feet," he added, "Reaching I-35, we looked about but found nothing. We travelled west on Highway 29. We observed three jet aircraft that appeared to be in V formation...in a flight that that would have intercepted the object if it had continued in the direction of travel last seen by us." (Many thanks to Steve Wilson Sr. for this report.)

CREDIT:

UFO ROUNDUP Feb 1997 - Editor Joseph Trainor.

This report sounds so similar to the run of sightings in Northern Tasmania about April-June 1996, in fact the Westbury case in early 1997 appears to be the last report describing this phenomena.

TUFOIC Address:

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Australia

Australian UFO Reports in 1997

DATE	TIME	Type	State	LOCATION	NOTES	SOURCE
97		CE3	QLD	Mt Nathan	Woman reports seeing lights, figures, flattened areas on farm.	G Mackay.
00 Jan 97	19.30	NL	NSW	Dalemy	Grey cigar object low level over the sea, moves off rapidly.	VUFORS
07 Jan 97	23.30	NL	SA	Para Hills	Obj viewed for 45mins, smaller lits coming and going from it.	UFORSA
09 Jan 97	00.35	NL	NSW	Grafton	Formation 8-10 white lights. est: 1 km distant, 500m high.	B Taylor.
14 Jan 97	01.15	NL	TAS	Launceston	Reports of constant noise, 3 large lights move slowly north.	TUFOIC
23 Jan 97	22.00	CE1	QLD	Goodna	Triangle object with lits moves close by with swishing noise.	UFORQ
23 Jan 97	22.45	NL	QLD	Greenbank	Triangle shape around flashing light. Slight westward move.	UFORQ
04 Feb 97	00.30	CE1	NSW	Gosford	Witnesses report bright blue light close to ground. 300m dia:	UFO Hotline
05 Feb 97	11.10	DD	NSW	Grafton(West)	White flying wing seen travelling N. est 600-2500m elevation	B Taylor
05 Feb 97	21.30	NL	NSW	Grafton	A light moving NE, speeds up/slows down. Photos taken.	B Taylor
07 Feb 97	09.00	DD	TAS	Westbury	White cigar shape to south, drops down vertically.	TUFOIC
11 Feb 97	00.02	CE1	QLD	Mount Gravatt	Large red-pink light hovers 300m above witnesses for 5 mins	UFORQ
14 Feb 97	23.15	CE1	VIC	Craigieburn	Bright disc shaped light hovers over paddock, then flies off.	UFO Hotline
15 Feb 97	08.25	DD	SA	Lewis Range	Cigar shaped obj: seen going overhead, photos taken.	UFO Hotline
15 Feb 97	21.30	NL	QLD	Parkinson	Orange ball moving below clouds, drops down vertically.	UFORQ
16 Feb 97	19.30	NL	QLD	Burpengary	Large lit with circle of lits moves away after 30 minutes.	UFORQ
18 Feb 97	03.30	NL	ACT	Calwell	Red/orange object with domed top, hovering near hills.	INUFOR
19 Feb 97	03.10	FIG	VIC	Narre Warren	Two thin stick like figures move across road in front of car.	VUFORS
22 Feb 97	22.00	NL	NSW	Port Macquarie	Family see object approach and hover above, photos taken.	INUFOR
28 Feb 97		CE2	QLD	Gold Coast	Luminous ball drops down on patio, mobile phone effected.	UFORQ
28Feb 97	01.30	CE2	NSW	Mangrove Mtn	Golden light plummets out of sky, traces on treetops.	INUFOR
02 Mar 97	21.30	CE1	NSW	Bangalow	Family watch hovering hang type glider with lights.	INUFOR
10 Mar 97	21.10	CE1	QLD	Greenbank	Loud hum from nearby obj: with bright blue & white lits.	UFORQ
12 Mar 97	21.30	CE3	NSW	Portland	Traces from large silver ball found, memories of figures.	INUFOR
25 Mar 97	03.00	NL	QLD	Redbank Plains	Triangle shape with lights on rear, passes 500m from wtns:	UFORQ
25 Mar 97	12.00	DD	QLD	Redbank Plains	Wedge obj: with flash'g lits, 500m away. Yellow lits falling.	UFORQ
01 Apr 97	19.30	NL	QLD	Gold Coast	Cigar with lump on top, seems to spin, getting closer.	UFORQ
02 Apr 97	19.00	NL	QLD	Caloundra	Triangle outline with red/white lits, climes rapidly into sky.	UFORQ
08 Apr 97	20.10	CE1	QLD	Loganlea	Blue ball with white edge, hovers, drops into yard. No traces.	UFORQ
09 Apr 97	22.30	CE1	NSW	Mudgee	Flat obj: with lits, big lits from below, at low level.	INUFOR
11 Apr 97	19.00	NL	QLD	Darra	Blue oval light with pale white ring. Descends out of sight.	UFORQ
14 Apr 97	Nite	CE1	NSW	Bathurst	Huge gold obj: hovering over paddocks, seen by motorist.	INUFOR
18 Apr 97	00.00	NL	SA	Port Lincoln	Large bubble shape seen travelling past by Security Guard.	UFORSA
19 Apr 97	23.45	CE1	NSW	Blayney	Brilliant light rushes at motorist, 20 minutes of missing time.	INUFOR
22 Apr 97	21.00	NL	NSW	Wallsend	Black delta shape followed by 3 yellow balls, pass overhead.	UFO Hotline
24 Apr 97	Nite	NL	QLD	Thornside	Wtns sees star like light come down. Move about above trees.	UFORQ
25 Apr 97	13.30	DD	SA	Walkerville	Grey cigar obj 10m above trees, 175m distant. Heads west.	UFO Hotline
26 Apr 97	17.30	NL	NSW	Blayney	Bright white object follows car for 30 minutes.	INUFOR
26 Apr 97	23.00	CE1	NSW	Millthorpe	Motorist followed by bright light, missing time noted again.	INUFOR
27 Apr 97	19.30	CE1	QLD	Norman Park	Obj 10m above house. Wtns then see objects rise from park.	URORQ
27 Apr 97	21.30	NL	SA	Victor Harbour	Six round red lights moving around as they move north west.	AIUOFOSR
28 Apr 97	19.00	CE1	NSW	Newcastle	Triangle obj 40m up passes over cars on highway, shoots off.	UFO Hotline
28 Apr 97	19.50	NL	TAS	Lyell Hwy	Lights drop down and take up position over road side trees	TUFOIC
28 Apr 97	21.45	CE1	WA	Darlington	Sev: witnesses bathed in ray from domed object, vanishes.	UFORUM
05 May 97	20.30	NL	SA	Hazelwood Park	Saucer like object stops 5-6 secs before moving away.	UFORSA
06 May 97	18.35	NL	WA	Darlington	Three glowing spheres move about erratically, streak off.	UFORUM
08 May 97	20.00	CE1	WA	Perth	Witness engulfed in ray from glowing disc above, fades out.	UFORUM
09 May 97	12.00	DD	QLD	Jamboree Heights	Metallic disk seen to SE, obscured by trees.	UFORQ
11 May 97	00.00	NL	WA	Perth	Orange light noticed above highway, moving erratically.	UFORUM
13 May 97	00.00	NL	WA	Perth	Orange half circle above road, moves up and away to west.	UFORUM
19 May 97	23.45	NL	QLD	Gatton	Woman reports round pink-red fireball on the ground.	UFORQ
28 May 97	02.20		SA	West Lakes	Blue white lit from outside, roar noise, fades away.	UFORSA
01 Jun 97	19.30	NL	VIC	Warburton	Grey triangular object with lits, flies away at speed.	VUFORS
06 Jun 97	18.45	NL	QLD	Coopers Plains	3 large orange lights above house, move SW then off NW.	UFOICQ
07 Jun 97	19.30	NL	NSW	Eatonville	Orange coloured light to nth, hovers, approaches witnesses	B Taylor
07 Jun 97	21.00	NL	NSW	Nymboida	White rotating and blue/red/orange lits saucer shaped.	B Taylor
09 Jun 97	18.30	NL	QLD	Agester	Orange basketball light close by, several photos taken.	UFOICQ
09 Jun 97	19.30	CE1	SA	Strathalbyn	Triangle with red lits, low down over paddocks, paces car.	Basterfield
17 Jun 97	21.30	NL	NSW	Brushgrove	Saucer object spiralling down towards the ground, no traces.	B Taylor
19 Jun 97	18.30	NL	SA	Victor Harbour	Triangle object with 2 boosters climbs high into NW sky.	UFORSA

DATE	TIME	Type	State	LOCATION	NOTES	SOURCE
19 Jun 97	19.00	CE1	NSW	Lake Cullullerne	4 large white lits at tree top height some 2-300yds away.	UFO Hotline
23 Jun 97	19.30	NL	TAS	Point Hibbs	Three coloured lights do erratic moves low in western sky.	TUFOIC
24 Jun 97	19.30	CE1	TAS	Lachlan	Large bright oval shape on ground in paddock.	TUFOIC
26 Jun 97	19.25	NL	SA	Glenelg	Obj travels W to E, turns S. Disc shape with flat bottom.	SAUFORI
28 Jun 97	22.25	NL	QLD	Slacks Creek	Pink disc shape reported. Windows & rim. Took off to SE.	UFO Hotline
29 Jun 97	19.30	NL	SA	Salisbury	Bright star with beam of light directed onto ground below.	UFO Hotline
30 Jun 97	19.00	NL	NSW	Ramornee	Star light travelling north, speeds up and turns to east.	B Taylor
01 Jul 97	21.15	NL	QLD	Jamboree Heights	Bright white light to east, travels off in zigzag pattern.	UFORQLD
01 Jul 97	21.25	NL	ACT	Tomakin	3 orange lits in triangle formation, moved away 1 at a time.	UFORQ
02 Jul 97	21.10	NL	NSW	Eatonsville	Yellow lit at low level, moves NNW then headed away north.	B Taylor
03 Jul 97	07.15	NL	SA	Port Elliot	3 grey objects approaching. Change to round obj going up.	UFORSA
05 Jul 97	20.30	NL	SA	Oakden	Bright orange light travelling W. Takes off straight up.	UFORSA
07 Jul 97	21.50	NL	NSW	Coffs Harbour	Two red lights over sea. One light goes orange shoots inland.	B Taylor
10 Jul 97	18.20	NL	SA	Christie Downs	3 white objects in triangle pattern. One shines beam into sky.	UFORSA
12 Jul 97	Nite	NL	VIC	Eldorado	Motorist reports two large bright white lights low to east	VUFORS
12 Jul 97	20.45	NL	SA	Andamooka	Bright orange/red ball passes over town from W, goes off Nth	AIUFOFSR
14 Jul 97	19.30	DD	SA	Port Clinton	Bright dome shape below clouds, takes off at speed into cloud	AIUFOFSR
20 Jul 97	20.00	CE1	NSW	Hay (near)	Object with lights and beams appears to land in paddocks.	AIUFOFSR
28 Jul 97	19.00	NL	SA	Moodbury	Red & white lights travelling at erratic pace, hovers, darts off.	UFORSA
04 Aug 97	22.00	NL	SA	Glenelg	Red, org then white light low over sea, erratic movements.	UFORSA
05 Aug 97	05.50	NL	SA	Glenunga	Triangle shape with bright lights on sides, duller on base.	AIUFOFSR
06 Aug 97	03.00	CE2	NSW	Grafton.	Witness woken by barking dogs, moon sized red light to W.	B Taylor
08 Aug 97	19.47	NL	SA	Parafield Gardens	Two lights seen moving NE then E. Perform erratic moves.	UFORSA
17 Aug 97	19.40	NL	NSW	Grafton	2 round gold orbs, moving towards each other, tree top level.	B.Taylor
25 Aug 97	19.45	NL	SA	North Haven	Triangular shaped light over sea, kept changing colours.	UFORSA
10 Sep 97	22.30	NL	TAS	Port Huon	Two boomerang shaped lights, erratic moves in SE sky.	TUFOIC
18 Sep 97	18.30	NL	VIC	Altona	Frosty white disc with portholes moving slowly south.	VUFORS
22 Sept 97	00.15	NL	TAS	Bronte Lagoon	Arrow head of lights changing formation to line.	TUFOIC
29 Sep 97	23.59	NL	QLD	Jacobs Well	Obj with 3 lights seen by helicopter crew. No air traffic.	K.Basterfield
30 Sep 97	15.40	DD	VIC	Eltham	Two round black balls moving in erratic pattern NE to NW.	VUFORS
01 Oct 97	Nite	NL	NSW	Nthn NSW	Helicopter crew report being bathed in white light.	K.Basterfield
05 Nov 97	20.45	NL	SA	Glenelg	White flashing light, followed by 2nd erratic light going east.	UFORSA
15 Nov 97	23.00	NL	TAS	Glen Huon	Large lit in sky, goes out. The line of white lits on hilltop.	TUFOIC
01 Dec 97	Nite	NL	SA	Kangaroo Island	Pilot of mail plane reports sighting object. (Channel 7 News)	K.Basterfield
10 Dec 97	22.50	NL	TAS	Perth	White/org lits seen, white lits go out, org lit zigzags. Sound..	TUFOIC

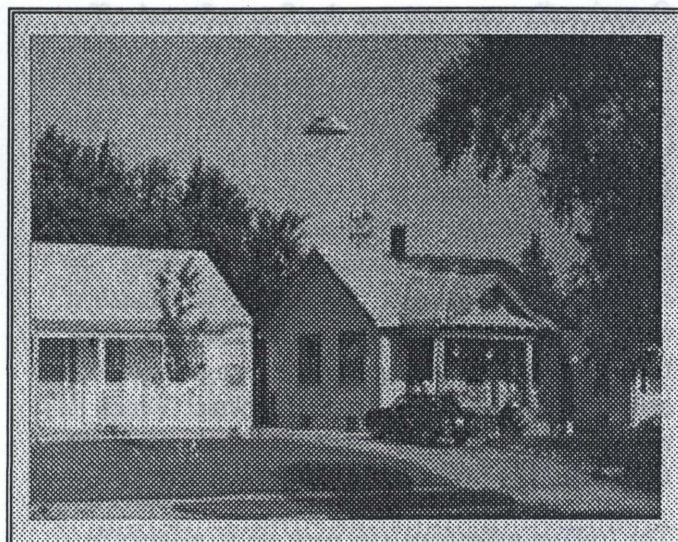
Australian sightings in 1997. The information has been extracted from fellow UFO Societies, Researchers, and the Media etc. We have every confidence in our fellow UFO Groups but must add that we cannot confirm the details of the sightings listed. Nevertheless the sightings have many features that have been reported previously in Australia and overseas.



Still Frame from Mexico Video
(Suspected hoax using computer imaging)

TUFOIC Web Site:

<http://www.netspace.net.au/~tufoic>



Iridium Satellites - Identified Flying Objects

You are out watching the night sky, you see a light brighten to rival the planet Venus. You wonder if you have just seen a U.F.O.! Twenty seconds later the light fades from view leaving you to think it was just their imagination!. You may have just spotted your first Iridium satellite. Iridium Satellites are the first of a new breed of Telecommunications satellites. The first 5 of the planned 66 satellites were launched from California, USA, on May 5th, 1997. They are likely to generate UFO sightings because most observers, having seen typical satellites, will be unaware of their distinctive behaviour.

Observing satellites

There are about 400 satellites visible to the naked eye out of the 8,000 or so currently in orbit. The brightest of which is currently the Russian Space Station Mir. A satellite usually appears as a star, slowly moving across the sky in the period after sunset or before sunrise. Satellites are visible during this period because they act as a mirror, reflecting the sunlight towards the Earth's surface and the observer. To see this "mirror" requires that the sky is dark and the satellite is in direct sunlight. This geometry occurs only in the period after sunset and before sunrise. It is quite common to be watching a satellite travel across the sky and see it suddenly disappear from view, that satellite has just entered the shadow of the Earth and into darkness. Many satellites appear like dim stars because they are small and/or they are dark in colour plus being some distance away from the observer. Some satellites will vary or pulse in brightness as they travel across the sky. This occurs because they are rotating or tumbling, reflecting the sunlight off uneven or bright and dark surfaces.

Occasionally you may see the Sun reflected off a mirror-like surface (the solar panels for example) and the brightness can be much higher, but this is a rare event, and almost impossible to predict. This situation changed with the launch of the Iridium satellites. You would need binoculars to see these satellites ordinarily, but these satellites have been providing very spectacular flares visible to observers on the ground. Soon after the launch it came to notice that very bright reflections from these satellites were being reported, magnitude -7 in some cases. For comparison, the planet Venus is about magnitude -4.5. The brightest stars are around -1, The Moon is -14, The Sun is -26.

The Iridium reflections can peak up to magnitude -7, lasts from 5 to 20 seconds, and a satellite movement of some 5 degrees across the sky, before

the satellite once again becomes almost invisible to the naked eye. Iridium flares are caused by reflections of the Sun off the mirror-like antennae on the Iridium satellites. The main mission antennae (MMA) have a silver-coated teflon surface with an area of about 1.6 square meters. There are three (120 degrees apart, 190 cm wide x 90 cm long) highly reflective aluminium flat plates that are angled 40 degrees away from the axis of the body of the satellite. The three sided (similar to an equilateral triangle) satellites themselves are not very large, only 4 meters long and less than one meter in height and width. The satellites rotate once per orbit, so that the antenna orientation relative to the local vertical is always the same, so the directions of satellite surfaces are thus known all the time.

Predicting the Flares

These flares can be very successfully predicted. There are a number of shareware computer programs are available to calculate the position the "flash" will occur. On the Internet [The Visual Satellite Observers Home Page](#)

<http://www2.satellite.eu.org/sat/vsohp/iridium.html> has copies of these prediction programs (IridFlare, SkySat and SkyMap).

A satellite prediction service which can predict up to 7 days in advance may also be found on the Internet, [The German Space Operations Centre - Satellite predictions](#). <http://www.gsoc.dlr.de/satvis>. This site provides accurate details of Iridium flares visible from your location for either the next 24 hours, or for the week ahead. You can also obtain details for MIR and other Bright satellites. It is very important to input your location coordinates as accurately as possible, in order to observe the flare successfully.

What is the Iridium Satellite system

The IRIDIUM Satellite system was launched by the Iridium Corporation as part of their plans to establish a satellite version of a cellular telephone network. It is a satellite-based, wireless personal communications network designed to permit any type of telephonic transmission -- voice, data, fax, or paging -- to reach registered subscribers using handheld telephones and pagers anywhere on earth. Motorola's Satellite Communications Group is the prime contractor for the IRIDIUM system. The IRIDIUM system is owned by Iridium LLC, an international consortium of 20 investor organisations representing leading telecommunications and industrial companies worldwide.

The original design for Iridium required 77 satellites, the name Iridium comes from an element with the atomic number of 77. Luckily, the name was not

changed when the constellation came back to 66 satellites two years later, the project may have been changed to Dysprosium, the element with the atomic number 66.

Although only 66 satellites are required, Iridium will control a total of 72. The extra six will be used in a different orbital plane if one of the 66 should go out of commission.

The Iridium network comprises a constellation of 66 interconnected satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), 780 kilometres (421.5 miles) above the earth, and inclined 86.4 degrees to the equator. The desired orbit is circular.

They are in 6 evenly spaced (30 degrees) orbital planes, with 11 operational satellites each, and one on-orbit spare per plane. For comparison, Geostationary communication satellites are 35,800 Km. The satellites orbit the earth every 100 minutes and 28 seconds. The low-earth orbit of IRIDIUM satellites as well as recent advances in microelectronics make it possible to communicate directly with a handheld phone.

The Iridium satellites will not only talk to handsets and ground stations, they will also talk to each other, forming a network aloft, passing on conversations, and handing them off when they drift out of range. Calls will be passed from one satellite to the next in the orbit to give uninterrupted transmission.

Iridium works on the principle of fast, low-flying satellites moving around the globe relaying traffic to each other. The company plans to offer services around September/October 1998.

Other Systems on the way

This is only the first of about 10 proposals to clutter up low Earth orbit with large constellations of communications satellites. To commence operation early next year is Globalstar, a 48 satellite constellation, which Launched it's first 4 satellites on Feb. 14th. also into LEO, to orbit at 1400Km. Within five years you will be able to surf the Internet without being connected by wires. The Teledesic system (The Internet_in_the_sky) will let you browse the World Wide Web, video-conference with friends and business colleagues or access interactive multimedia at megabit speed.

The original project as envisioned, would have sent 840 satellites into orbit, this has now been cut back to 288, circling the globe from pole to pole. These satellites could transmit data at 2 million bits of computer information per second _ that's about 70

times faster than a standard 28.8-kilobit phone modem. A next-generation low-orbit system, named Celestri, is already on the drawing board at Motorola's Satellite Communications Group and will replace Iridium as it nears the end of its operational life in five to eight years. They plan to launch the first of 63 satellites for the system in 2001, with service beginning in 2002. It is believed to be the first system to use a combination of LEO satellites (orbiting at 1400 Km) and geostationary satellites.

Another system called SkyBridge will be based on 64 low-earth orbiting satellites, and is expected to begin operating by the end of 2001. A number of other countries, including Russia, Singapore, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia, have announced plans for systems that will compete for the satellite communications spectrum. These satellites would travel in big constellations with dozens or hundreds working in concert. Messages would travel from one satellite to another, sort of like pinball's bouncing through space, until they reach a satellite over the spot where the signals have to be sent back down.

This communications revolution is being delivered through an unprecedented commercialisation of space.

During the next 10 years, some 1,200 commercial satellites will be launched into orbit. Two-thirds of them will be the new low-level models, which are smaller, cheaper and more powerful than the traditional satellites that carry radio and television signals.

In Conclusion

Ufologists have many things to grapple with while investigation UFO reports, not the least of which is the increasing number of man made objects that can generate sightings.

We can now add Iridium satellites to the list. They will generate many unwanted UFO sightings, as people unfamiliar with their behaviour will report these flares and will not be convinced that they have seen a common satellite.

Becoming aware of them, and those that are to follow them will assist us to identify reports of these flares for what they are - Identified Flying Objects

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TUFOIC MEMBERSHIP

TUFOIC is a serious minded civilian organisation that attempts to investigate all UFO reports, in a scientific, objective and unbiased manner, and make reliable information available on the UFO subject.

As an organisation, the Centre draws no conclusions from its investigations, other than the fact that an unexplained phenomenon exists as a fact, and requires extensive research and investigation.

Reports that are considered authentic, after thorough investigation, are included in the computerised Database file, TASCAT, and are made available to fellow researchers and the public via our publications.

TUFOIC is based in Hobart, with representatives / investigators in various regions around the state.

Contact is maintained with fellow organisations and researchers around Australia, and Overseas. Publications are exchanged in an attempt to gain a world-wide picture of the UFO phenomena.

Membership of TUFOIC is open to anyone seriously interested in the UFO subject, and who support the aims of the organisation. For those not wishing to become a member, yet still desire to be kept informed on the subject, a publications only subscription is available.

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